

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 8 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4. The remaining claims are amended only to correct minor informalities not affecting patentability and not in response to any objection or rejection. No new matter is added.

I. Drawings

Although not objected to, replacement formal drawings, replacing Figs. 1-2(C) originally filed with this application are submitted. Entry of the formal drawings is requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 is appreciated, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 4, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,637,386 to Murata et al. (Murata). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4, Murata does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of U.S. Patent 6,164,931 to Norton et al. (Norton); and claims 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of Norton and further in view of U.S.

Patent 6,530,361 to Shiraishi et al. (Shiraishi). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As each of the rejected claims depends from amended claim 1, which has been revised to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 4, the combination of references, whether considered alone or in combination, fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the claims.

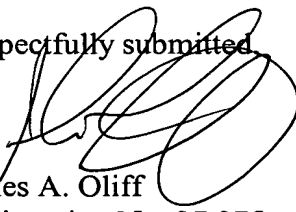
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted



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Attachment:
Formal Drawings (2 sheets)

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace the two sheets of drawings filed October 30, 2003 with the attached Replacement Sheets.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)